

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 5 and 6 are pending, each of these claims having been amended, and Claims 2-4 and 7-20 having been canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Karmarkar (U.S. Patent No. 6,508,709) in view of Walker (U.S. Patent No. 6,293,866).

It is believed that this rejection applies to all of Claims 1-20 since the remarks at pages 2, 3 and 4 of the Office Action refer to Claims 12-20 even though the heading at page 2 of the Office Action only refers to Claims 1-11.

The amendment to Claim 1 finds support in original Claims 1-11 and in the specification at page 6, line 3 to page 7, line 12 as well as page 12, lines 8-15 and associated Figure 1. Therefore no new matter is added. To avoid having the Office construe the terms “user” and “player” interchangeably the term “player” in amended Claim 1 refers to a person being present in the game arcade, and not necessarily a person who is actively playing a game in the game arcade. Moreover, a “user” in amended Claim 1 refers to a person being present in a guest room. It is hoped that this terminology, in light of these comments, assists the Office in examining the present claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an information providing system for providing information on a game arcade in a hotel. The system includes a plurality of photographing means provided in the game arcade for taking images of a situation in the game arcade. A display terminal is provided in a guest room of the hotel for displaying the images of the

situation in the game arcade taken by the photographing means. This situation includes a game, a gaming machine, and information of the game arcade other than the game and the gaming machine. An information providing unit causes the display terminal to display the image selected by a user's input operation at the display terminal and taken by the photographing means. A card has stored therein a first identifier that identifies a player, and a card reading means provided in the game arcade is for reading the first identifier stored in the card. Camera identifiers are related to the photographing means respectively and the camera identifiers each identify corresponding photographing means. Second identifiers identify each gaming machine installed in a game arcade and are stored in the information providing unit or the card reading means. The information providing unit obtains from the information providing unit or the card reading means the second identifier corresponding to the camera identifier related to the photographing means taking the image selected by the user's input operation at the display terminal and displays the gaming machine being identified by the second identifier by using the photographing means that takes the image of the gaming machine. The information providing unit then displays on the display terminal information of the player playing at the gaming machine and being identified by the first identifier read by the card reading means and information of the gaming machine being identified by the second identifier identifying the gaming machine taken by the selected photographing means.

An advantage with the invention defined by amended Claim 1 is that the display terminal is capable of displaying the situation in the game arcade taken by the photographing means. Accordingly, a guest staying in a guest room at the hotel can enjoy seeing images of the situation in the game arcade without having to go down to the game arcade. This situation

includes a game, the gaming machine and information of the game arcade other than the game of the gaming machine, this information including information related to a specific player having a card with him or her.

The display terminal is also capable of displaying gaming information of the specific player in the game arcade. Accordingly, the guest can easily identify players having a card and participating in the roulette game or the like by seeing the game information displayed on the display terminal and can also enjoy seeing images of the situation in the game arcade.

Of particular interest is that the information of a specific player can be displayed on a display terminal. This player has a card read by the card reading means, and is playing a game at the gaming machine. Information of the gaming machine identified by the second identifier identifying a gaming machine taken by the selected photographing means can also be displayed on the display terminal. An important advantage is that the guest in the privacy of his guest room can quickly find a specific player having the card and be present in the game arcade and immediately know what the player is doing.

Comparing amended Claim 1 with Karmarkar, Claim 1 requires a card having stored therein a first identifier that identifies a player, a card reading means provided in the game arcade for reading the first identifier stored in the card. As a consequence, a specific player having the card can be specified within the game arcade itself. In contrast, Karmarkar does not describe a card reading means for reading a card storing a first identifier identifying a player where the first identifier identifies a particular player.

Amended Claim 1 also requires second identifiers that identify each gaming machine installed in the game arcade stored in the information providing unit or the card reading means. In contrast, Karmarkar does not describe such a feature as claimed. Accordingly, as a practical effect, Karmarkar cannot identify a specific player having the card and playing at a

specific gaming machine within the gaming arcade. This is relevant because MPEP § 2143.03 requires that all claim limitations must be considered, and Karmarkar does not teach the above-described claim limitations. Furthermore, the claimed invention as a whole must be considered. In light of the above discussion regarding amended Claim 1, MPEP § 2141.02.I, does not support the present rejection in view of amended Claim 1 because Karmarkar simply would not be able to identify the specific player having the card and playing at a specific gaming machine in the game arcade.

Moreover, the information providing unit of amended Claim 1 causes the display terminal to display the image selected by a user (e.g., a guest at a room of the hotel) by obtaining from the information providing unit or the game reading means the second identifier (e.g., a gaming machine) corresponding to the camera identifier related to the photographing means that takes the image selected by the user's input operation at the display terminal. The information providing unit also displays on the display terminal information regarding the player (i.e., a specific player having a card) playing at the gaming machine identified by the first identifier read by the card reading means. In contrast, Karmarkar cannot cause the display terminal in a room of a hotel (for example) to display information related to a specific player playing at a specific gaming machine in the game arcade. Consequently a guest would not be able to find a specific player present in the game arcade and would not immediately know what the specific player is doing, according to the teachings in Karmarkar.

Another advantage of the configuration defined by amended Claim 1 is that by inputting identification information related to an ID card using a card key at a display terminal provided in a room of the hotel, an authorized person in a guest room can specify a

photographing means (e.g., a camera) for an image displayed on the display terminal and remotely observe a specific player playing at a game machine on the display terminal.

Karmarkar merely describes a system that enables a guest to participate in a game from a room of the hotel by using cameras (see e.g., col. 17, lines 44-62). As such, Karmarkar does not disclose or suggest the card reading means, the second identifiers, the information providing unit, displaying information of the specific player identified by the first identifier read by the card reading means, and information of the gaming machine identified by the second identifier identifying the gaming machine taken by the selected photographing means. As such, Karmarkar does not disclose all the elements of amended Claim 1.

The outstanding Office Action asserts Walker as curing the deficiencies in Karmarkar, which the Office Action characterizes as only failing to describe a card identification system. For this purpose the Office Action asserts Walker as describing a slot machine in which a player inserts a player tracking card that transmits player identification data to a central server. In response, a central server determines appropriate casino preference values based on the player's performance and transmits those values to the slot machine for configuration (Abstract).

Thus, while Walker describes a system in which a particular machine transmits preference data to a central server, Walker does not cure the deficiencies discussed above with regard to Karmarkar, regarding using first and second identifiers with photographing means, to enable a user to monitor a specific player at a gaming machine on the display terminal. As such, it is respectfully submitted that any combination of Karmarkar in view of Walker fails to teach or suggest all of the elements of amended Claim 1, and therefore fails to

render obvious the invention defined by amended Claim 1.

Because Claims 5 and 6 depend from Claim 1 it is respectfully submitted that these claims also patentably define over the asserted prior art.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1 and 5-6, as amended, is patentably distinguishing over the prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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